

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /125 W

----- 117196

R 190815Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9424

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1480

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PO

SUBJ: DETENTION OF OPPOSITIONISTS

1. FORTY-THREE PORTUGUESE, MOSTLY YOUNG, LEFT WING
OPPOSITIONISTS, WERE ARRESTED IN PRIVATE HOME IN
ALMADA, WORKING-CLASS TOWN ACROSS RIVER
FROM LISBON, ON EVENING APRIL 5, WHILE THEY WERE
MEETING TO DRAW UP STATUTES FOR NEW CONSUMER COOPERATIVE.
GROUP IS IDENTIFIED WITH DEMOCRATIC ELECTORAL COMMISSION
(CDE), LEFTIST OPPOSITION COALITION WHICH CAMPAIGNED
FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER 1973 BUT
WITHDREW AT LAST MINUTE. SEVERAL OF THOSE ARRESTED
WERE RELEASED WITHIN A FEW HOURS, BUT MOST ARE STILL
DETAINED AT CAXIAS PRISON.

2. TWO ASSOCIATES OF THOSE ARRESTED CLAIM SOME OF
DETAINEES HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO HARSH INTERROGATION
INCLUDING BEATINGS AND DEPRIVATION OF SLEEP, AND THAT ONE
OF THEM, JOURNALIST LINO DE CARVALHO, IS NOW IN PSYCHIATRIC
HOSPITAL AS A RESULT.

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3. THOSE DETAINED ARE LITTLE KNOWN OUTSIDE LEFT-WING
OPPOSITION CIRCLES, BUT THEY INCLUDE VICTOR DIAS,
FORMER MANAGER OF POLITICALLY-ORIENTED COOPERATIVE DEVIR
AND 1973 CDE CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS.
SOURCES MENTIONED ABOVE ALLEGED DIAS HAS ALSO BEEN
BEATEN BY POLICE.

4. JOURNALISTS AND LAWYERS WE HAVE TALKED TO PROFESS
SURPRISE AT ARRESTS AND TREATMENT OF CDE GROUP WHICH,
ALTHOUGH COMPOSED OF LEFTISTS (INCLUDING COMMUNISTS),
AND ALTHOUGH MEETING WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION AND
THUS ILLEGALLY, WAS NOT APPARENTLY ENGAGED IN RADICAL
ACTIVITY. PRESUMABLY, POLICE, MORE JITTERY THAN USUAL
IN PRESENT TENSE POLITICAL CLIMATE, SAW CDE GROUP'S
MEETING AS AN ATTEMPT TO CONTINUE CDE POLITICAL ASSOCIA-
TION IN DISGUISE OF CONSUMER CO-OP.
SCOTT

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NNN

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